

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING August 5, 2021 — MINUTES

Committee Members

Present

Gladys Cortez, Committee
Chair

Kimberly Blackmon

Andrew Crim

Mary Durham, Council Chair

Jennifer Hines, TWC

Justin Porter, TEA

Robert Schier III, Council Vice-
Chair

Molly Spratt

Toby Summers

Audrey Young, DSHS

Committee Members Absent

Maverick Crawford

Scott McAvoy

Holly Riley, HHSC

John Thomas

Council Members Present

Ronnie Browning

Eric Shahid

Guests Present

Clair Benitez

Judy Blake

Kyle Cox

Jesse Garza

Sarah Gernsbacher

Olga Guerra

Charles Kerlegon

Amy Litzinger

Linda Litzinger

Laura Marquez

Regional Coordinators

Present

Morgan Bradley

Rosa Guel

Skyler Mueller

Shelby Vaughn

Staff Members Present

Beth Stalvey, Executive
Director

Scott Daigle

Robert Garcia

Lauren Gerken

Sabrina Gonzalez

Stacey Kaleh

Genessee Klemm

Linda Logan

Sylvia Medina

Richard Rendon

Mary Rochford

Fernando Rodriguez

Rey Valldejuli

Koren Vogel

Rosalin Willis

Call To Order

Pursuant to the Governor's March 16, 2020 suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Project Development Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened virtually using the Zoom platform on Thursday, August 5, 2021. Committee Chair Gladys Cortez called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

3. Consideration of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed, and no corrections or additions were noted.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 6, 2021, Project Development Committee as presented.

MADE BY: Andrew Crim

SECOND: Mary Durham

The motion **passed** unanimously. (August 2021 Meeting Materials, Tab 12)

4. **Chair's Remarks**

Chair Cortez reported the expected absence of Maverick Crawford, Scott McAvoy, and Holly Riley.

Cortez reviewed the TCDD financial reports which highlights funds available for grants by showing funds that are assigned, pending, or have not been assigned. Cortez noted that all grant funds are currently obligated, but the Council will still consider new projects should funds become available.

5. **Members Quarterly Activities Report**

Committee members shared their updates on their disability-related activities during the previous quarter. Texas Education Agency (TEA) representative Justin Porter provided information on legislation related to special education as well as Supplemental Special Education Services (SSES). Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) representative Jennifer Hines discussed updates to the application process for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services including the capability for online applications. Department of State Health Services (DSHS) representative Audrey Young discussed the biennial survey for parents of children with special healthcare needs which is open for responses until August 31, 2021.

4. **Staff Reports**

Grants Management Director Rosalin Willis discussed the Grants Monitoring Report that featured 39 active projects, one project started during the quarter, five projects that ended during the quarter as well as four projects that are in the final year of funding. Willis noted that one project extended its budget period due to COVID-19 complications and three projects will be considered for continuation funding at the November meeting.

6. **Future Activities for State Plan Implementation**

Committee Chair Cortez reminded members of a prior project on Disability-Related Participatory Research that did not receive applications when posted. The Council wanted to re-evaluate the concept and directed staff to revise the new project executive summary.

TCDD Policy Analyst Lauren Gerken discussed research models and the need to have community participation in the development of a research project. She noted the difficulty in including people with disabilities because they are not familiar with research procedures and how to be part of the team.

The executive summary for Participatory Action Research. Addressing Goal 1, Objective 1 of the FY 2022 – FY 2026 TCDD State Plan, would equip people with disabilities to be active in participatory action research through projects that address gaps by reviewing barriers for participation by people with disabilities; raise awareness of the value of participation by people with disabilities; and develop accessible educational materials as well as training for people with disabilities in research basics. Funding was proposed for three projects at up to \$100,000 per year, for up to three years. Committee members were in agreement with the concepts of the proposed project but recommended fewer projects with an increased funding amount.

MOTION: Recommend Council approve funding of up to \$150,000 per year, for up to three years, per project for up to two Participatory Action Research projects.

MADE BY: Andrew Crim

SECOND: Mary Durham

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Executive Director Beth Stalvey next presented the executive summary for New Initiatives in Community Inclusion. She explained the concept of an open Request for Applications (RFA) that allows the applicant to submit innovative ideas that would increase community inclusion or improve the lives of people with disabilities. Stalvey reminded members that a prior version of this RFA brought in several successful projects. The New Initiatives RFA would address Goal 2, Objective 6 of the FY 2022 – FY 2026 TCDD State Plan. The anticipated funding amount is up to \$100,000 per year, for up to four years, for up to five projects.

MOTION: Recommend Council approve funding of up to \$100,000 per year, for up to four years for up to five New Initiatives projects with a distinct clarification of innovative ideas.

MADE BY: Jennifer Hines

SECOND: Kimberly Blackmon

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Executive Director Stalvey reviewed a document highlighting best practices by TCDD grantees in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She discussed virtual activities and participant experiences in those activities. Stalvey also discussed examples of creative solutions developed by grantees.

Committee members discussed sustainability of projects including sharing of resources developed by grantees during their course of their project. Following discussion of needs for transition aged students, the members directed staff to bring revised new state plan project executive summaries that focus on an analysis of current employment training for students with disabilities and opportunities for post-

secondary education training programs that support employment for students with disabilities.

7. **Future Project Funding Priorities**

The Committee next evaluated the Future Funding Priorities List. Members discussed placement for the two projects that will be recommended for Council funding. They also noted that the higher education projects on the list should be removed and eventually replaced by employment training and post-secondary education training for students with disabilities once those new project executive summaries have been approved.

MOTION: Recommend Council approve the Future Funding Priorities List as follows:

1. Understanding Online Access Among individuals with DD During COVID-19
2. Understanding of Employment and Unemployment Among individuals with DD During COVID-19
3. Culturally Appropriate Family Supports
4. Promoting Civic Engagement Among Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
5. Participatory Action Research
6. New Initiatives
7. Prevention and Response to Sexual Offenses: Medical and Therapeutic Professionals
8. Prevention and Response to Sexual Offenses: Criminal Justice Response to Cases involving people with IDD

MADE BY: Andrew Crim

SECOND: Audrey Young

The motion **passed** unanimously.

9. **Future Agenda Items**

Presentations from the projects on Complex Mental Health Needs and on Substance Use Disorders at University of North Texas Health Science Centers was requested.

10. **Other Discussion Items**

The Committee was informed that the November 2021 meetings will be held in person and discussed safety measures for in-person meetings.

Adjourn

Chair Cortez adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council Date